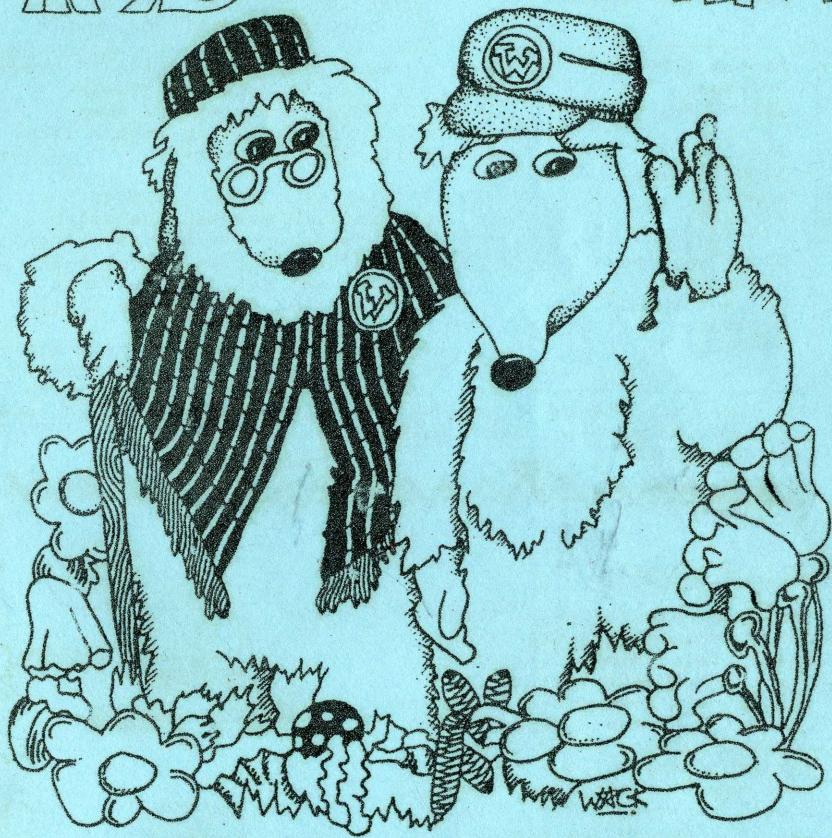


# PEACE OF MIND

## ISSUE 5

## TWENTY PENCE



ANTI-NAZI, GREEN CONSUMERISM,  
COMIC RELIEF, CARTOONS, POEMS.  
ANARCHY AND THE REAL WORLD.

# PEACE OF MIND

PO Box 172,  
Preston,  
Lancs PR1 7BU

Box 184,  
52 Call Lane,  
Leeds 1,  
W.YORKS

UEASU Anarchist Group,  
University  
Of East Anglia,  
Norwich,  
NORFOLK  
(term time only)

who makes the effort to care - you make it all worthwhile, and you know who you are. Don't give up, and remember -  
**KEEP ON WORKING!**

John

♥ Raven

## HELLO & THANKS...

Yan Tree, Sarah, Jenny, Wack,  
Henry Normal, Ziggy, Gaynor,  
Shaun, Iain, Simon, Catherine,  
Guy, Phil & other Preston A's,  
Bob "here's some money for guitar  
lessons & please go away" Smith,  
Pascal, Norwich DAM & other  
Norwich comrades, the Gunton  
Lane happy house, John "I've got  
a poll tax form & I'm going to  
pay it", Brench, Ma Brench &  
other groovy 1 in 12 people, any  
FoM sellers out there (except  
those who rip us off), Dave  
"punks not dead - it's just a  
bit drunk", & anyone we've nicked  
bits from.

Well, thanks for waiting so long  
for issue 5 to come out, hopefully  
the next one will be out sooner.

We've been doing this fanzine for  
2½ years now, and I think we've  
learnt a lot about the good and  
bad sides of the anarchist and  
punk movement. These days I really  
can't be bothered with all the  
dodgy aspects of punky types.  
People who think a circled \$ on  
their back is some sort of threat  
to the status quo. And people  
who are quite happy to listen to,  
or even play in "political" bands  
but when it comes to genuine  
political activity, or even  
simply not treating people like  
shit, they're useless.

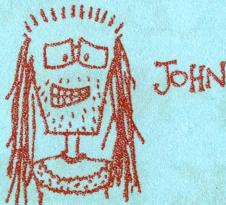
I think it's time to widen the  
distinction between the drongos  
and the genuine activists, then  
we can concentrate on our real  
enemies and not have to waste  
time writing things like this.

But more importantly, there are  
a lot of great people out there  
and I'd like to say to everyone

and remember -

BRUM!  
BRUM!

RAVEN





WE BELIEVE IN

# FREEDOM or CHOICE

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When it comes to Soda Pop\*



\* brownish, caffeinated, carbonated, cola flavored, corn syrup sweetened beverage in a plastic bottle



And when it comes to Vice Presidents\*



\* white, male millionaires from Texas who favor tax cuts, Star Wars, contra aid, prayer in schools, MX missiles and B-1 bombers

The greatest myth of modern capitalism is that it offers us freedom of choice. Go into a supermarket and there's an endless variety of every conceivable product. You can choose between Coca Cola, 7 Up, Tango, Fanta, Sprite, (all with sugar-free, caffeine-free varieties) but, surprise, surprise, they're all made by the same company.

It's the same with most things - a small number of large companies control most of the market with many different brand names. Freedom of choice, eh? More like the choice between what multinationals decide to offer us. It gives us the false impression of freedom so that we can feel we're making real decisions in our lives.

And it's the same with party politics and elections:

"Freedom is the choice between three different brands of the same oppression." (chumbawamba)

In underdeveloped countries, the effects are more insidious. The 'necessary expansion' of western capitalism is always on the look out for new markets to exploit. Local producers of food and other goods are put out of business by multinationals who push the message

"West is Best."

I've read of desperately poor people spending all their money on Coca Cola, and peasant children dying because their parents thought that a diet of biscuits alone would suffice.

Nestle's promotion of dried baby milk in poor countries provoked an outcry: mothers were being encouraged that breast milk was 'inferior' and not up to the standards of the west. Free samples were given out, and as their breasts dried up in only a few days, they were hooked. This led to many deaths because of the problems of sterilisation, and watering it down too much to make it last - it was a continual drain

4 On a families limited resources.

Nestle's gained the name 'babykillers' and after a consumer boycott, stopped the worst of their overt advertising. Apparently, they are now at it again though, and a new campaign has been launched against them.

This cultural imperialism stinks of death, and is as effective at crushing alternative cultures as colonialism ever was.

What freedom is this? We are being dictated to, and having our decisions made for us by multinationals and governments.

We must start to take back control and make real choices in our lives. Not the choice between two brands of Unilever washing powder, but whether or not we want to live a glossy, pre-packaged lifestyle (with all the implications for the poor in other countries).

We can refuse to be a part of their profits-before-people consumerist machine. Alternatives exist, and can be created. For example, here is a list of Unilever products and their alternatives. The most important thing is not to let the multinationals buy out our resistance with superficial concessions.

#### UNILEVER PRODUCT

Soaps	Lifebuoy, Knights Castille, Shield, Lux
Shampoos	Sunsilk, Pears, All Clear, Timotei, Harmony
Conditioners	Cream Silk, Sunsilk, Harmony
Moisturisers	Astral, Pears
Others	Norsca (bubblebath, talcum powder)
Deodorants	Sure, Norsca, Impulse
Toothpaste	Gibbs, SR, Signal
Shaving foam	Denim, Erasmic, Easy Stick
Detergents	Persil, Surf, Drive, Wisk, Stergene Comfort (conditioner)
Washing-up	Sunlight, Squezy
Disinfectant	Domestos, Dot
Margarine etc.	Flora, Stork, Kona, Blue Band, Echo, Outline, Cookeen, Tomor, Flora Oil, Spry
Meat	Matteisons and Walls spreads, sausages, etc.
Various	Quick Custard Cup-a-Soup Batchelors Baked Beans Vesta dishes Pack-a-Pie fillings Frisk cat food Walls ice-creams BirdsEye, Menumaster

#### ALTERNATIVE

Caurnie, Simple, Oxfam, Body Shop, Faith, Weleda, Creighton
Weleda, Tiki, Simple, Faith, Pure Plant, Body Shop, Beauty Without Cruelty
As above, also Oxfam, Vale of Health, Honesty
Simple, Beauty Without Cruelty, Cherish, Creighton, Honesty
Beauty Without Cruelty, Pure Plant, Bright Eyes, Honesty
Pure Plant, Honesty, Aromacare, Body Shop, Queen, Weleda
Weleda, Uncle Tom's, Honesty, Sarakan, Vico Herbal
Cherish, Honesty, Beauty Without Cruelty, Body Shop
Faith, Clear Spring, Ecover, Janco, Caurnie Clear Spring (conditioner)
Ecover, Caurnie, Faith, Snowcrest, Janco
D.E.S. (Caurnie), Ecover
Granose, Vitaquell, Prewitts, Safeway and Little Foods Low Fat, Suma, Nutter, Trex, Vitaquell Cuisine, solid vegetable oil
Granose Vegetable Spreads, Vege-Burgers, Vege-Bangers, Soya Mince
Provamel Instant Dessert, Itona Hera Soup, Prewitts, Hugli Whole Earth (for make your own!)
Prewitts Instant Meals
Fresh fruit
Kittie-Kat, Wiskas, Katomeat
Sunrise Soya Ice Dream, Sojel
Vegedine Instant Frozen Meals,
Vegetarian Feast (complete meals)

## FAMILY MAN

Do you feel hard when you hit women, do you pretend  
your mind is swimming and blame it on the drinking  
tell yourself you weren't thinking, how many lives are  
you going to ruin, does your mother know what you're  
doing, is your dad proud of his son, does your sister  
feel safe when her boyfriend's gone; do you lie to them  
about what you've done, make out you're the innocent one,  
do your mates in the pub say it's alright, then call you  
twat when you're out of sight, do the neighbours listen  
and think you've something missing when you take it out  
on your wife.

Does she fake it when you make it for fear of her life  
is it the only way you can get her into bed, is she  
praying for the day you drop down dead, is this  
what you were promising when you were wed.

In sickness and in health the Preacher said  
but was this the sickness he had in mind, do you feel  
women's lib's left you behind, is this the only hope  
of coping you could find, do you consider yourself  
kind to kiddies, dangle them on your knee, tell  
them tales about how you used to be, miss the bit  
about beating up the weaker sex, think that's not  
what a child expects, from the favourite uncle  
so correct, or do you take it out on them too  
are you mindless through and through, is your  
son gonna be as big a bastard as you?



# AND THE REAL WORLD

This article is a shortened version of one which appeared in the 'Merseyside Anarchist Newsletter', a regular monthly newsletter based in Liverpool but of interest to anarchists anywhere. I'd highly recommend it for its mixture of interesting articles and news. Write to Liverpool Anarchist Group, P.O. Box 110, Liverpool, L6S 6AU for the latest copy or send a couple of quid for a subscription.

The first anarchist article I read was brilliant - something that made sense and fitted in with what I believed. Since then, I've come to realise there's a lot of rubbish floating about the 'anarchist movement' - confusing the issues and providing a screen for people to be 'right on' whilst doing nothing...

The anarchism I agree with most is anarcho-syndicalism ('syndicalism' meaning revolutionary unionism). This has nothing to do with 'worshiping the past'. Anarcho syndicalism, to me, is organised anarchism, libertarian socialism. Rather than sit back and wait for 'the revolution' or retreat into safe anarchist ghettos, anarcho-syndicalism was born when anarchists got their hands dirty in the day to day class war - as agitators, educators and organisers. Anarchism becomes relevant to ordinary people.

We may have lots of funny ideas in our heads, but when

faced with harsh reality those ideas either work or they don't. I'm saying this because I think there's a lot of confusion within the anarchist movement over just what anarchism is all about, even over basic issues. Here are a few of them, and my own opinions:

## VOTING

Anarchists are against the elected dictatorship of parliament and the whole electoral merry-go-round. We are for grassroots democracy, with people directly participating in running their own communities and workplaces. Having said that, some anarchists take this further and believe anarchists should never vote, even within anarchist organisations (or presumably, even to go on strike). I think this is stupid. Ideally, everything should be discussed and a consensus reached, but often this isn't possible.

Once everyone's had their say, everybody knows the



## AND THE REAL WORLD

issues and can make their minds up. If the majority wants to do one thing, and even one person disagrees, consensus fails. The only alternative to a dictatorship of a minority, and doing nothing, I think, is to vote. Also if everyone doesn't speak - which can happen - then 'consensus' is a lie. A show of hands/vote may be the only way of seeing what people think. Voting does not mean people turn up to a meeting, vote then f\*\*\* off. If you vote for something, you see it gets done. If you were in the minority, you may or may not get involved in carrying out the decision. In the end it comes down to common sense and everyone acting like mature adults. eg. how important is it that people stick together?

Voting as such is not anti-anarchist, and certainly not anti-anarcho-syndicalist.



## RULES

Anarchists are against the law. Laws are rules written and imposed on us by the ruling class to protect their interests. While some crimes are illegal, most - the crimes of the rich: exploitation, repression, environmental destruction, war, nuclear terror, etc. - are not only made legal but sanctified with the full pomp and 'glory' of judicial procedure. Our struggles for a better world may or may not be illegal, depending on circumstances. Their defence of their own privilege and class rule is always backed by the full weight of the legal machine - courts, police, prisons, etc.

Where the written law isn't harsh enough, the police make up their own laws (as in the miners strike), or undercover death squads are sent in (as in Northern Ireland). Real change will never occur on the say so of smiling judges, top cops, or multinational murderers. A free society will only be built on the ruins of class society and the laws that protect it.

Again, some anarchists take this further: "Anarchy means no rules" - giving the impression that anarchists want some kind of free for all, where the strongest win and the weakest go to the wall. (A kind of capitalist utopia.) All societies and organisations have rules of one kind or another. Most are probably unwritten - people do



## AND THE REAL WORLD

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things out of habit or custom, or because of what they believe is right or wrong. And without such unwritten rules, the written ones don't work so well. Eg, without the habit/belief/practice of participation, even the most libertarian organisation can end up being run by a few. And without the habit/belief/practice of obedience, authoritarian organisations fall apart or have to be imposed violently.

To work well, written and unwritten rules have to mesh together. Obviously on a small scale - friends, affinity groups, etc. - constitutions aren't needed. People know and trust each other on a personal level, and for some activities, this kind of set-up is best. But on a larger scale it doesn't work.

If we're serious about a free society, it'll mean organisation within and between different communities and industries - locally, regionally, nationally and internationally. If there's not to be chaos, there needs to be a more formal structure, where people know where they stand, how to go about recalling delegates, etc.

Again, this is where I agree with anarcho-syndicalism. There's nothing wrong with Aims and Principles setting out what's what, or Union/club rule books - with

rules made by the members. Rules made by the base are OK with me.

## LEADERS

Anarchists are against rulers (which is what 'anarchy' means), class society and domination in general. As such, we're against 'vanguard politics' - the belief in a separate class or group of leaders (the vanguard) who are destined to 'lead the masses'. People aren't Party fodder to be called up to fight, applaud, roll over and beg - all on order. No-one is fit to rule another. All of us (near enough) are capable of taking control of our own lives.

Because we don't believe in worshipping leaders doesn't mean we believe in sitting back and waiting for miracles to happen. We know, or should know, what we believe in, and should be prepared to act. There's a story of how some 'wobblies' (American syndicalists) were stopped by





## AND THE REAL WORLD

the cops and asked "who's your leader?". "We're all leaders", they replied. That's how it should be - everyone prepared to give a lead where possible, no-one a passive sheep.

Without a strong base in the community, and without people taking action themselves, no revolution will get anywhere.

## SCIENCE

Most anarchists take a balanced view of science and technology - neither rejecting things out of hand, nor being blinded by visions of 'progress'.

Science isn't neutral. Who pays the piper calls the tune, and much multinational/state research does little more than shore up ruling class power. With the world teetering on the edge of nuclear and environmental disaster, it's obvious the direction science is going in, needs to be changed.

We need an ecological science geared to meeting human and environmental needs. Such a change in science is unlikely without a radical change in society. For instance, most of today's jobs are useless - producing overpackaged rubbish designed to be thrown away within a year, or playing about with

WE'VE HAD ENOUGH!



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'information' on computers (information for who?). Technology could easily be used to cut the working week drastically, make the remaining work as pleasant as possible, and eliminate pollution. But this won't happen by itself.

## FINALLY

Anarchism is not a game. It's a movement based on class struggle, against class society, for the liberation of all humanity. It's nothing to do with tolerating the intolerable because 'anything goes', or anything to do with the way you dress. It is not a pose or a 'phase' to be grown out of. It is not liberalism spelt with an 'a'.

Anarchism is a movement that aims to change the world. The future we face is grim. Without radical change it'll get a lot worse, and without struggle that change will remain a dream.

# COMIC RELIEF?

## DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH.



Whilst not doubting the obvious good intentions behind the idea of Comic Relief, and the sincerity of many of the people involved, the long-term effectiveness of charity must be questioned if we are to see behind the stark photographs of starving people, to the root causes of famine.

As Lenny Henry said after visiting Ethiopia this year, the sole aim of Comic Relief is to raise as much money as possible. A laugh, a giggle, and a donation - no questions asked. Which is exactly what happens.

For example, no questions are asked about some of the big companies involved in Comic Relief. The facts that BP made the red noses, or that PG Tips ran a massive Comic Relief poster campaign, distracts us from asking any questions about their activities in the Third World.

Multinational Companies like Unilever (who own PG Tips), McDonalds, Coca Cola etc, own huge areas of land in poor countries. Land which has been taken from the peasants who grew food for local consumption. Deprived of a means to survival, the peasants are forced to work

for the companies in appalling conditions and for starvation wages.

The worst examples are luxury cash crops - tea, coffee, cotton, sugar etc, which don't even provide nutrition, and yet they are grown on the best land. In the 1984/5 Ethiopian famine, coffee was being exported to the west while millions starved to death.



Famines are not a natural occurrence, they are largely man-made. It is obviously more profitable for Western based multinationals to use Third World land for exports to the rich world, than to let the people grow food for themselves. The resulting effects of this economic imperialism are the deaths of millions of people, whilst we in the west benefit from their suffering.

# COMIC RELIEF

It's no good expecting the international capitalists to reform themselves, this is a corrupt system beyond reform, which is only fit to be destroyed. The answer, as ever, lies with us as individuals. It is our actions and our daily lives which can make a difference. To take no action is to passively condone this system. We need to realise that our lives are part of this cycle of exploitation and start to create alternatives to the glossy, plastic lifestyle big business would have us all lead.

The products of multinational companies are everywhere we look, in the highstreets and in the supermarkets. Boycotting their products is just one way of taking a stand against their activities, of saying no to their 'profit before people' morality.

We must start to take back control of our own lives and accept responsibility for our actions, if anything is to change. The massed stars of pop music, comedy and TV, for all their sincerity and wealth, cannot feed the world. Together we can.

For more information on multinationals, contact:

London Greenpeace,  
5 Caledonian Rd,  
LONDON N1

## CONDOM CRASH COURSE



You and your partner can then roll it down together making it an exciting addition to your lovemaking  
-FINGERNAILS BEWARE.. and there we are.



PACIFISTS! IF YOU MUST THROW FLOWERS AT POLICEMEN, THEN LEAVE 'EM IN THE PLANT POT!!!



After the violence, the Tory punishment should be administered on the spot by police officers whenever they arrest anybody for violence."

MP for Hayes and Harlington, Mr Terry Dicks, called on the Home Secretary, Mr Douglas Hurd, for action.



Ealing Council removed this cartoon from its women's newsletter, because the council's solicitor advised that it ran a risk of legal challenge under Section 28.

## RADICAL LESBIAN & GAY NETWORK

SINCE Clause 28 became law it seems there has been a decline in political lesbian and gay activity. We would like to make contact with lesbians and gay men who want to continue radical political activity and fight for lesbian and gay liberation.

We know that there are many lesbians and gay men fed up with boring respectable middle class campaigns, who don't like party politics, rhetoric or endless meetings and who see racism, sexism and class oppression and disability as central issues to changing society. Despite the many faults with "Stop the Clause", we heard of and met lots of lesbians and gays into creative ideas and actions. We would like to hear from lesbians and gay men (especially anarchists, greens and non party socialists and communists) who are interested in setting up a network, newsletters and campaigns.

If you're interested in this idea the write to  
Nik Walton, c/o 24 South Road, Hockley,  
Birmingham B19.

# RIGHT-ON READING!

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There have been quite a few interesting books, zines and comics coming out recently, and so this is a sort of extended recommended reading list, really. Everything mentioned is well worth a look - I just thought a few things deserved some publicity!

AARGH and CRISIS represent a refreshingly new and mature approach to comics, as a means of conveying serious political statements and ideas in a more visual way.

**CRISIS** 65p fortnightly from newsagents and comicbook shops.

From the somewhat dodgy Maxwell publishing house, comes a comic which held many surprises for me. The story 'Third World War' tells of the systematic exploitation of the third world by western governments and the preceding multinationals. The story is set in the future, but is based on fact. Coca-colonisation, US backing of military regimes, and the exploitation of people and animals by multinationals is all happening now.



I was amazed to see material like this on the mass market, apparently selling in hundreds of thousands of

copies, each issue. The first part of 3MW is being published as a book soon, if you missed it. Other stories include one set in present day Northern Ireland.

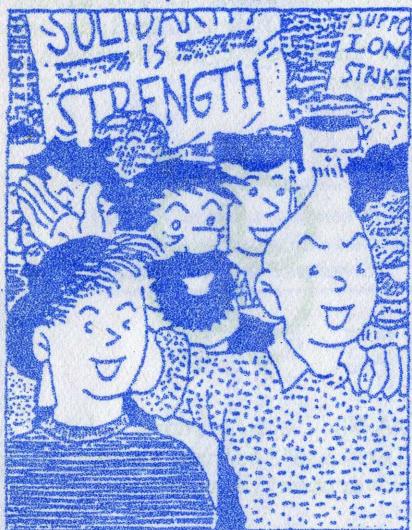


**AARGH** comic shops - £2  
(Artists Against Rampant Government Homophobia)

This comic book is a collection of the work of many artists and writers concerned about Section 28. The comic strips are about sexuality, repression, and the struggle for gay and lesbian voices to be heard above the roaring of ignorance and prejudice. They are funny, ironic, and frighteningly depressing and serious. All the work was given free, and any profits will go to a Lesbian and Gay group to continue the fight.

Breaking Free! 2  
Attack, BM 6577,  
LONDON WC1N 3XX

Tin Tin as you've never seen him before! Here we have Tin Tin and all his friends setting out to smash capitalism and the state and having a few laughs along the way. From the same artist who brought us Tin Tin in 'Patriarchy is our Prison' comes a proper comic book with a glossy cover of revolutionary antics



Black Flag  
30p or £3 for 6 issues (UK)  
BM Hurricane,  
LONDON WC1N 3XX

A bit long on the intellectual waffle sometimes (I've never known any of the anarcho-quiz answers I'm proud to say!). But BF has good information on anarchist and class struggle prisoners, and is excellent at gathering information on the far-right organisations like the Economic League.

# COUNTER INFORMATION

Counter Information  
c/o 11 Forth St.  
Edinburgh, UK.

This is a free bi-monthly newsheet which contains news of all the positive resistance going on around the world. It makes good reading to hear about stuff ignored by most of the media, and includes reports on squatting, poll tax resistance, claimants' struggles, womens issues, strike support, political prisoners and more! This sort of thing needs our support to keep going, recently C.I. have been making requests for donations so send some dosh if you're writing to them.

Direct Action  
30p or £3.50 for 6 issues  
PO Box 761, Camberwell SDO,  
LONDON SE5 9JH

Concentrating on industrial struggles, DA is the newspaper of the Direct Action Movement - the anarcho-syndicalist organisation and British section of the International Workers Association. It's good to see DA focusing on other issues these days, such as gay rights and the environment, which some anarcho-syndicalists tend to ignore as 'side issues'.

Dark Diamonds 40p  
1, St Johns View,  
Boston Spa, Wetherby.  
W.Yorks, ENGLAND

This is one of the most interesting and enjoyable zines I've come across. It has strange mixture of poetic fantasy and harsh reality, containing informative articles on ancient religion, and electric-shock-therapy today as a means of mind control, amongst others. Poems and good artwork make this an excellent read.

Third World First  
34, Cowley Rd, OXFORD, UK

This group produces a lot of excellent magazines and books, aimed at challenging accepted myths about poverty, famine, development, etc. Their quarterly 'Links' magazine covers one issue in depth each issue. Recommended ones are White Lies (racism and resistance); Dying For Profit (real reasons for famine); multinationals, womens work, etc. Write for details, they cost around £ 2 each

How The Other Half Dies  
by Susan George

This is an excellent book, introducing a radical look at Third World 'development' and 'aid'. She looks at the real reasons for world hunger, and inevitably lays the blame with us in the west, and the multinationals. I would

recommend this book to anyone who wants to understand the criticality of the relationship between the dominating west, and the powerless poor. 15

WITHOUT A TRACK - A Forensics Manual for You and Me  
40p + SAE from AGIT PRESS,  
Box 4, 52 Call Lane, LEEDS '1,  
W.Yorks, UK.

Whether you're planning something very risky, slightly sneaky or just a little bit naughty, this booklet is an invaluable guide to increasing your chances of getting away with it. Includes information on police forensics, surveillance and lots of common sense advice on countering their tactics. It's essential reading for anyone who wants to smash the state and still get home for tea.

#### From Ballots To Bombs

This new publication by the anti-fascist group Searchlight, documents the changing face of fascism in Britain today. The latest in the long series of splits in the far right, resulted in the formation of the NF's political soldier wing - a group dedicated to terrorism and violence to achieve their sick ends. This document exposes the sequence of events that led to this group's formation, largely using the fascists' own words. Also included is a selection of photographs of prominent fascists - what ugly bastards they are!

This is the story of Mira, and how life leads her into a dead-end marriage and seemingly, no future. The way she is repressed by her ~~ROTIN~~ husband, her children and ~~sister~~ herself, is frightening, but it is the story of all women. After reading this book, the subtle and explicit oppression of women all around us becomes blindingly obvious.

The Mirror Within and Assertiveness and You  
by Anne Dickson

These two books, aimed mainly at women, emerged as the results of workshops and self-help groups. "The Mirror Within" provides a new look at sexuality and tries to help women understand what they want out of a sexual relationship, and to feel good about their bodies. Too much guilt, fear and ignorance surrounds sex; and too many women put up with unpleasant sex because they don't know how to make their needs known.

"Assertiveness and You" encourages women to stand up for themselves in a clear and firm way. Women are conditioned not to hurt other peoples feelings by talking honestly. By overcoming fear of rejection, we can be confident in making our opinions and feelings heard.



## A MESSAGE TO THE LAST SAVAGES ON EARTH

You build mighty houses for your words  
And with words you steal and make rules that lie  
You defend your words with boats and fire  
And only the words are real and the people die  
You bind your promises with long clever words  
We hold out hands in trust  
And you call us  
Savages

You build machines with paper gifts  
And paper you steal and make dreams that lie  
You defend your paper with sticks and gas  
And only is the paper real and the old men cry  
You build machines that could save lives  
Then you lock them away to rust  
And you call us  
Savages

You build children with greedy hearts  
And with children you steal and make a future that lies  
You defend your greed with drums and flags  
And only the greed is real and children are taught/  
not to question why  
Whilst you cast away food grossly overfull  
Half the world pains for lack of a crust  
You make excuses with long clever words  
You amuse yourself with pieces of paper  
Still we hold out our hands in trust  
And you call us  
Savages

# SMASH

The popularity of anti-racism as a political issue, as shown by the huge "Free Mandela" concert for example, seems to overshadow the comparatively small amount of anti-fascist activity.

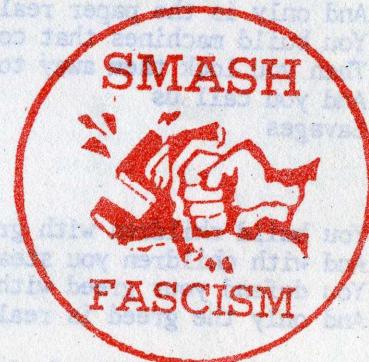
While many people are rightly angry about the atrocities of apartheid in South Africa, the fact that there are active fascists in our own communities is overlooked or even ignored. In many areas fascists sell their racist papers at football matches or in town centres. Not to mention plastering the place with their prettily designed stickers whose 'liberal' slogans ("Peace through repatriation"; "Separate the races") hide the violence and racial hatred behind fascist ideals, and the reality of their attacks on black and Asian people.

Of course, facsim is more than just an extreme right stance, incorporating both sexism and homophobia. Here's what the nazi youth group "Blood and Honour" have to say about a future nazi Britain:

"For a start, there wouldn't be any black people here, lesbians and gays would crawl back into the sordid holes they crawled out of..."

# FASCISM!

As documented in Searchlights "From Ballots to Bombs" (see review section), fascist groups in Britain have recently changed tactics. They have largely shifted from any pretence of being a political party towards increasingly terrorist politics. The number of racial attacks reported is now 70,000 a year. The active fascists do not even have to carry out all these attacks themselves - merely their presence in an area acts as provocation to anyone with a chip on their shoulder.



Obviously even a small fascist presence is no joke and it's never too early to attack fascism at its roots. For any long-term eradication of fascism, the ignorance, fear and misinformation which lies at its heart needs to be countered and shown up for the bigoted crap that it is. In the

# SMASH FASCISM!

short term, any fascist activity on our streets needs to be confronted to prevent them gaining confidence while terrorising innocent people.



Counter marches against nazis can often be very effective. A large enough presence of anti-fascists is often enough for the police to ban or disperse the fascists (although I'd never suggest our tactics should rely on the police).

Fascists recently attempted to march in Rochdale and failed partly due to this method, and partly due to groups of Asians with baseball bats. Similarly, at the supposedly huge "Blood and Honour" concert in London where 1200 nazis were meant to assemble for an international gig, not even 100 fascists were spotted. (and those that were probably regretted it!)

It seems that anti-fascists turning up in large enough numbers is remarkably effective at screwing up any fascist plans. If we can combine an active and mobile anti-fascist presence with effective anti-fascist propaganda then there's no doubt we can defeat fascism for good. But there's no room for complacency.

"Only one thing could have stopped our movement - if our adversaries had understood it's principle and from the first day had smashed with the utmost brutality, the nucleus of our new movement."

(Adolf Hitler 1933)

For more information:

Cable Street Beat  
(music against fascism)  
and Anti Fascist Action,  
PO Box 273,  
Forest Gate,  
LONDON E7  
Tel: (01) 387 2531



# BOYCOTT GREEN CONSUMERISM

With even such an obvious fraud as Thatcher pretending she cares about the environment, maybe it's about time environmental issues ceased to be such a liberal concern and began to be put in a more radical context.

The fact that some leading political figures have noticed the increasing public concern about our environment and are attempting to cash in on it, is irrelevant to the reality of our already polluted planet. After all, the money-makers of this world need something to exploit in order to make a profit, and a world stripped of resources presents little opportunity to the greedy capitalist. And of course, if they can gain some popularity by expressing their 'concerns' then that's even better.

So when I hear McDonalds is to use hamburger packaging which is CFC-free, it doesn't even make me want to laugh, it just makes me sick that such an obviously exploitative and environmentally destructive company is trying to become part of the 'green consumer' trend.

The more multinationals and big companies jump on the green bandwagon, the less the whole movement means. If we

consider ourselves to be working for change in the world, then letting multi-million pound companies in on the act is an excellent way of minimising our effectiveness.

One of the basic laws of capitalist economics is to maximise the amount of goods you can sell to a consumer. The fact that some of these goods may be less harmful to the environment than others isn't the issue. In a truly sustainable and safe world consumption needs to be minimised, which goes totally against the grain of capitalism (including 'green capitalism' whatever that may be).



## BOYCOTT GREEN CONSUMERISM

Taking the aerosol as an example, whilst it's good that people have made the connections between their usage and the state of the ozone-layer, the fact remains that I cannot think of a single product in an aerosol which is necessary to sustain human life. They may be convenient, and an excellent money-making ploy by big business (consider how much of the product in an aerosol you actually use - most of it is lost into the atmosphere), but we can certainly do without them.

And apart from that, the millions of tons of household waste continually produced throughout the western world has to be dumped somewhere. A huge landfill site full of rubbish is not my idea of a good environment.

As always, the answer lies with us as individuals. We can simply refuse to partake in the destructive processes which are poisoning our earth. It's as simple as realising the difference between what we need and what we want, and relating this to everyday life.

For example, almost everything we buy has some form of packaging, 'nearly all of which is unnecessary. A

crisp packet and an empty Coke can may not seem like much waste when you throw it away, but multiplied by however many million times this is repeated every day, it amounts to a lot of energy and resources used and a lot of waste to be



dumped. Yet most people never consider what they're doing when they chuck out their rubbish.

As lone individuals, we can only do so much, and it's impossible to avoid all the excesses of our society. I'm faced with dilemmas every day, but the value of finding or creating alternatives makes it worthwhile.

What green consumerism should be is a direct threat to the very existence of capitalism, not merely the creation of an alternative market for them to exploit. The system doesn't need patching up or reforming, it needs to be destroyed and replaced with something better.

John

# WORRYING ABOUT THE POLL TAX?

**WELL DON'T!** That seems to be the message coming from the Scottish experience. Estimates are that 100,000 Scots (one fiftieth of the population) have eluded registration. One million have said they will not pay it this year.

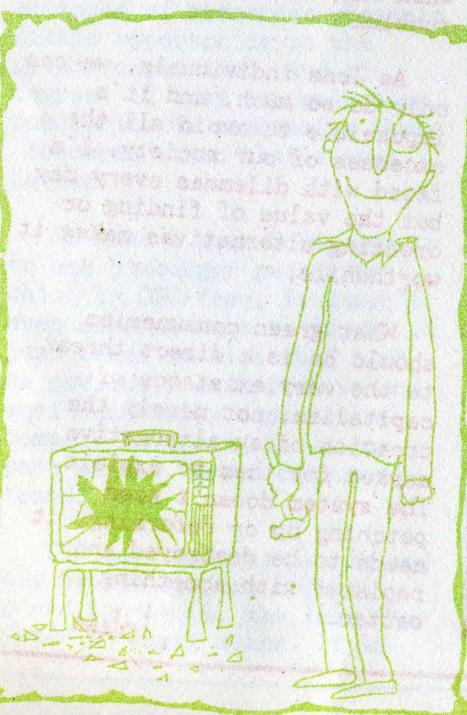
Of the 30,000 perhaps as few as 100 are being fined. These unfortunate individuals wrote letters about Poll Tax to the authorities.

*The advice for us seems to be ignore it, treat the registration people civilly, say 'leave that with me' and just bin it.*

Why? Well the local councils have been given limited budgets to administer the Poll Tax and they just can't afford to do it properly. After going through the electoral register and register of ratepayers, there's not a lot left to follow up. So if you think the Poll Tax is wrong, you can make it very difficult to impose it on you. If and when they get heavier, the advice is that you should KEEP YOUR BANK ACCOUNT OR BUILDING SOCIETY NUMBER TO YOURSELF. That should be very good for delaying. Once registered you may stay registered whether you move house or change your (un)employment.

The unemployed are automatically registered. You will then be charged 20% of the Poll Tax from next year. The good news there is that if your Poll Tax is *forcibly deducted by installments from your benefit*, the maximum amount they can take never reaches the 20% so it pays to break the law! If you start work, of course, they can take more.

Good luck. The more people who refuse to register or pay, the more successful resistance will be. The more resistance there is to registration in England and Wales, the more Scots will refuse to pay this yet.



## MUSHROOMS THE HERALDS OF AUTUMN



FIELD MUSHROOM  
-EDIBLE



FLY AGARIC  
-CAUSES SEVERE  
STOMACH PAIN



NUCLEAR  
MUSHROOM  
-ANNIHILATES  
ENTIRE  
POPULATIONS

Cartoon by Lewie

# BITTY PAGE ...

23

## SEARCHLIGHT

Contact Searchlight/378 New Cavendish Street/London/W1M 8JR if you want a copy of their new booklet "From Ballots to Bombs" (see review section) which costs £2. Searchlight also produce a monthly anti-fascist magazine.

## MARTIN FORAN

At the moment things seem to be going from bad to worse for Martin Foran. His health is deteriorating rapidly and he has recently suffered a heart attack but is still being refused treatment and pain-killers.

Letters of support can be sent to Martin Foran/C51796/Franklands Prison/P.O. Box 40/Franklands-low-Newton/Brasside/Durham/DH1 5XS.  
Campaign address BCM Foran/London/WC1N 3XX.

## THOUGHT POLICE

"Music Built on Hate and Love". New tape and booklet from the band that are putting the anarcho back into anarcho-punk. About time too!  
£1.50 + SAE from Iain/P.O. Box 172/Preston/Lancs/PR1.

## ANARCHY, PEAS & CHIPS no. 2

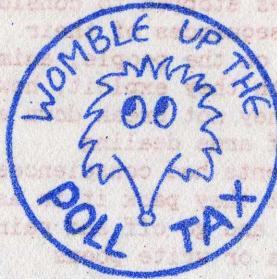
If you saw the first one then this is more of the same only wackier. Articles, interviews and silly bits all for 25p + SAE from above address.

## PRESTON OTHER PAPER

Regular monthly magazine reporting all the alternative goings on in Preston. Covers stuff like anti-fascist activity and hunt sabbing that everyone else ignores, as well as a big what's on section, reviews etc... Available from loads of places around Preston or the P.O. Box. 60p an issue.

## LOST DREAMS no. 2

Lots of poetry and art for 30p and SAE from Box 184/52 Call Lane/Leeds/LS1 6DT. Also the address for Witchy Lok Wizz distribution, SAE for a list of tapes, demos, books and zines.



## PEACE OF MIND

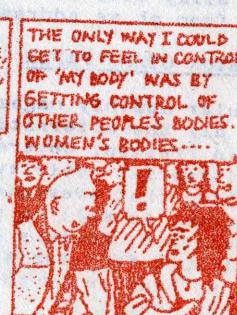
Both the last two issues are available - PoM 4 has articles on section 28, organic gardening, squatting, stonehenge, hunt sabbing & lots more. PoM 3 includes stuff on animal rights & living simply plus poetry, cartoons etc... Both cost 20p & SAE from the addresses on page two.



# • MEN FEEL PAIN TOO! •

Just how dangerous it is for men to hide their feelings can hardly be better illustrated than by the state of the world today. If the bosses of multinational companies stopped to consider the consequences of their actions on the people, animals and earth they exploit, how could they not break down and cry? If arms dealing governments had consciences wouldn't they pack it in as a bad job and go off and paint pictures or write poems instead?

It may seem hard to understand the destructive and hurtful acts of many men, but maybe it shouldn't be so surprising because indoctrination from birth is a very powerful thing. What pleasure do blokes get from fighting each other, or from raping or harrassing a woman? Surely none at all. It's all pretence and show, we're not meant to be open and honest about our feelings or let our emotions show, or even feel pain. We're tough and hard and serious.



Not only is this bad for women, treated as objects and possessions, it damages us too. If we can't cry, we've lost a valuable, perhaps essential emotional outlet. If we pretend we can't be hurt, we'll end up badly injured like the football fans in hospital after their latest fight, or equally, like the tough punks who push everyone around the dancefloor at gigs.

Hurting yourself may seem stupid (mainly because it is) but other consequences of indoctrinated male values are far worse. Rape, often still thought of as an act of lust, is in fact an assertion of male dominance over women. A way of showing who is boss, who is stronger. Just what are rapists scared of, and why can't they come to terms with it? Their answer is to use violence to gain respect.

These values work at all levels of society. We can learn it at school where teachers gain the respect of their pupils by the use of

## MEN FEEL PAIN TOO!

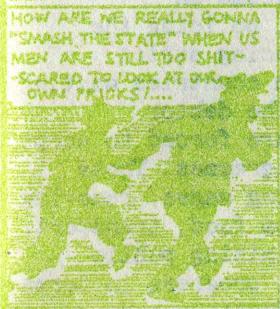
violent punishments and threats, teaching their pupils that this is how you get to be boss. Usually only boys receive corporal punishment and you have to try your best not to cry afterwards. The pain gets shut up inside, maybe for years, until there's a chance to get your own back, perhaps on your children or wife, or a woman on her own.

I remember at school in the first year when we used to get bullied by the fifth year prefects - we said we couldn't wait to be fifth years when we could do the same and get our own back. But get our own back

on who? The fifth years in question had long since left, so the cycle continues, the first years we bullied said to each other...

The answer? Well, you tell me... but abolishing corporal punishment and prefects might be a good start! Along with realising our own fears and weaknesses as men, realising that we're all just flesh and blood and feelings. It's an ongoing thing, but the sooner we start to challenge and redefine our prescribed roles, the better.

We'll never be perfect, but the struggle is what life is all about, and if we can't change ourselves what hope have we of changing the world?



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# LIFE AND DEBT

The slums of Lima, Sao Paulo, or the other great cities of Latin America may seem a long way from your high street bank. But there is a direct link - one which ties the policies of the four biggest banks in the UK (Lloyds, Barclays, Midland and Nat West) to the fate of the poor of an entire continent.

150 million Latin Americans live in absolute poverty. Preventable diseases, such as influenza, diarrhoea and heart ailments cause 40% of deaths in middle aged women. 300,000 Brazilian children die of malnutrition every year, and a half of all Bolivian children are malnourished. Over half the Peruvian workforce are unemployed.

Poverty has existed in Latin America for many years, but since 1982, the living standards of the poor have fallen dramatically - by up to 50% in many cases. The single major cause of this drastic decline has been the struggle to pay debts owed to banks and western governments. Interest payments to banks averaging 29 billion a year help the banks to make massive profits.

In the 1970's recession, the world's leading banks were overeager to lend money to underdeveloped countries - to keep profits "healthy". The lending was profitable, but also reckless and uncontrolled.

Most of the money simply made rich powerful elites even richer, or paid the interest on previous debts. Large wasteful projects like the Brazilian dams only benefitted large companies and corrupt officials. The banks did little to ensure the loans were well used, and hardly any benefit reached the poorest people.

In the late 70's and early 80's, the world recession pushed up interest rates which made the debts even harder to pay, but the banks still demand payment.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) became an intermediary, policing the loans and placing strict conditions on countries wanting new credit. The debtor governments are forced to adopt Austerity programmes. These include cutting wages, removing subsidies from food, transport, etc, and minimising public spending. All progress in terms of health, education and sanitation has been slowed or stopped.





The poorest people didn't benefit from the loans - now they're paying them back in blood.

All across Latin America, millions of people are campaigning against the burden of the debt, through unions, women's organisations, churches and peasant associations. The recent 'IMF riots' in Venezuela demonstrate the popular resistance to harsh austerity programmes which make basic food unaffordable.

The transfer of wealth from Latin America must be ended - interest payments on the debts must be drastically reduced. In Britain and other western countries, the major banks must be forced to take responsibility for the bad loans they have made, and the suffering they have caused.

The best solution would be if the banks totally wrote off the debts. Often as much as 30% of a debtor countries export earnings goes to repay the debt. By releasing this money, great improvements could be

made in the living standards and opportunities of the poor. Such measures would hit the banks and their shareholders, but it is better that profits suffer than people.

There are many ways we can let the banks know what we think of their murderous activities - if you want to stay legal about it, War on Want have produced four leaflets about it, which look deceptively like the four main bank's leaflets. Flyposting and leafletting outside the banks is a good way to attract public attention to the problem.

Raven



For more information:

"A Fate Worse Than Debt" by Susan George, from bookshops and libraries. An easy to read analysis of the debt crisis, and proposals for the future.

War On Want

Profits out of Poverty campaign  
WoW, Suite 4-6,  
The Hop Exchange,  
24 Southwark St.,  
LONDON SE1

